CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

A Guide to CTA's New Fare Structure

Linking people, jobs and communities with quality, affordable transit

Effective January 1, 2004

www.transitchicago.com

cta take it.SM

Dear CTA Customer:

The Chicago Transit Authority's mission is to provide quality, affordable transit services that link people, jobs and communities. To best accomplish that mission, we have focused on rebuilding our aging infrastructure, upgrading our equipment, and improving the reliability of our operations to better meet customer needs. We strive to provide transit service that is on time, clean, safe and friendly.

For the past several years, we have worked hard to continually improve service despite an increasingly tough economic environment. By continuing to work smarter, cut expenses and find new revenue sources, we have improved our service, fleet and facilities, while keeping costs down. We are proud that since 1998 our cost reduction efforts have resulted in more than $550 million in savings.

As resourceful as we have been, our efforts have not been enough to offset the impact of the sluggish regional economy, which has negatively impacted CTA ridership levels and state sales tax revenues — both critical CTA funding sources. For the first time since 1991, CTA is increasing its base fare. This has been the longest period in CTA history without a fare increase.

After months of research and analysis, as well as an extended public comment period, a public hearing and three public board meetings, changes to the fare structure were approved by the Chicago Transit Board, including many improvements suggested by customers. With the new fare structure, nearly one in four customers will see no increase in the typical fare price, while other customers will see fares go up from 11 to 17 percent. This brochure details the changes and describes the available fare options.

These moderate fare increases will enable CTA to continue to provide the high level of service that we have worked hard to achieve. And, it will help to ensure a public transit system designed to serve customers into the future.

Carole L. Brown
Chairman

Frank Kruesi
President

New CTA Fares

CTA developed its new fare structure after many months of research and analysis to find the best way to minimize the impact on customers while providing sufficient revenue to maintain current service levels and improve services as needed. The following pages outline the new fares, effective as of January 1, 2004. As you will see, the prices of many CTA fares remain unchanged, some go up, and some go down.

Full Fare

The Full Fare of $1.50 increases to $1.75 for both bus and rail service.

- May be paid in cash, or with a Transit Card or Chicago Card.
- Chicago Cards continue to offer a 10 percent bonus for every $10 of value added.
- Transit Cards will continue to offer a 10 percent bonus for every $10 of value added until the new Chicago Card Plus farecards become available in early 2004.

Full Fare Transfer

The Full Fare Transfer decreases from 30 cents to 25 cents for both bus and rail service.

- Allows two additional rides within two hours of issue.

Chicago Card™

The Chicago Card is the fastest and easiest way to use CTA. Simply touch the Chicago Card to the touchpad located on the front of the farebox or rail turnstile — and go. The fare or transfer is automatically deducted.

- Chicago Cards offer a $1 bonus for each $10 of value added.
- Beginning January 1 through March 31, 2004, the $5 purchase fee will be waived for new purchases of the Chicago Card.
- Chicago Cards can be purchased or replaced online, over the phone, by mail and in person at CTA headquarters at the Merchandise Mart.
- Chicago Cards can be registered to protect against loss or theft. The CTA will restore the balance that was on your missing Chicago Card at the time of notification.
- If lost, the replacement fee is a non-refundable $5.

Chicago Card Plus™

In early 2004, CTA will introduce the Chicago Card Plus, an account based version of the Chicago Card. The Chicago Card Plus will allow customers to automatically add more value to their cards via a credit card when the balance runs low, and the Chicago Card Plus will also be available through employers participating in the RTA/CTA Transit Benefit program.

CTA Passes

CTA offers a number of multi-day passes to meet a broad range of needs. Under the new fare structure, the prices for passes will remain unchanged.

Full Fare Passes

- Prices of multi-day passes are unchanged
  - 1-Day Pass is $5
  - 7-Day Pass is $20
  - 30-Day Pass is $75
  - Activated with first use
  - Available at Currency Exchanges, select Jewel/Osco, Dominick's and Cub Foods stores, and on the Internet
  - Cannot be shared or recharged
  - 1-Day and 7-Day Passes valid only on CTA; 30-Day Passes valid on CTA and Pace
  - Link-Up Pass is $36 and available from Metra

Visitor Passes

- Prices of all Visitor Passes are unchanged
  - 1-Day Pass is $5
  - 2-Day Pass is $9
  - 3-Day Pass is $12
  - 5-Day Pass is $18
  - Activated with the first use
  - Available at Visitors Centers, airports, museums, Hot Tix, Navy Pier or on the Internet
  - Cannot be shared or recharged

Express Surcharge

The 25-cent Express Surcharge in effect on bus routes #2, #6, #14 and #147 from downtown is eliminated.

Rush Shuttle Fares

The Rush Shuttle fare remains $1. Rush Shuttle fares apply on certain bus routes during morning and evening rush hours between downtown Metra stations and the surrounding areas.

Reduced Fares

CTA offers a range of reduced fares for use by:

- Children ages 7-11
- Grade school and high school students with CTA Student Riding Permit
- Seniors and riders with disabilities with RTA Reduced Fare Permit or Card

The new Reduced Fares are as follows:

- Reduced Fare increases from 75 cents to 85 cents for both bus and rail service.
- Reduced Fare Transit Cards will continue to provide a 10 percent bonus only until Reduced Fare Chicago Cards become available.
  - Once the Reduced Fare Chicago Cards are available, the bonus on Reduced Fare Transit Cards will be discontinued.
- Reduced Fare Transfers remain unchanged at 15 cents.
  - Transfers allow two additional rides within two hours of issue.
- Reduced Fare 30-Day Pass remains unchanged at $35.

CTA Paratransit Fares

Special Services

The Special Service fare for curbside van service increases from $1.50 to $1.75.

Taxi Access Program

The Taxi Access fare for taxi service using pre-paid vouchers increases from $1.50 to $1.75.

Mobility Direct

The Mobility Direct fare for voucherless taxi service for recurring trips increases from $1.50 to $1.75.

Paratransit 30-Day Pass

The Paratransit 30-Day Pass remains unchanged at $75.

Single Ride Fares/Passes	2003	Jan. 1, 2004
Cash	$ 1.50	$ 1.75
Full Fare Transit Card	$ 1.50	$ 1.75
Transit Card Bonus	10%	0%
Full Fare Chicago Card[1]	$ 1.50	$ 1.75
Chicago Card Bonus[1]	10%	unchanged
Transfer[2]	$ .30	$ .25
Paratransit/TAP/Mobility Direct	$ 1.50	$ 1.75
1-Day Pass	$ 5.00	unchanged
7-Day Pass	$20.00	unchanged
30-Day Pass	$75.00	unchanged
1-Day Visitor Pass	$ 5.00	unchanged
2-Day Visitor Pass	$ 9.00	unchanged
3-Day Visitor Pass	$12.00	unchanged
5-Day Visitor Pass	$18.00	unchanged
Transit Card 10-Pack	$15.00	$17.50
Link-Up Pass	$36.00	unchanged
Rush Shuttle Fares	$ 1.00	unchanged
128 Soldier Field Express	$ 1.00	unchanged
154 Wrigley Field Express	$ 5.00 (per carload)	unchanged

Reduced Single Ride Fares/Passes	2003	Jan. 1, 2004
Cash	$ .75	$ .85
Reduced Fare Transit Card[3]	$ .75	$ .85
Transfer[2]	$ .15	unchanged
Reduced Fare 30-Day Pass	$35.00	unchanged
Transit Card 20-Pack	$13.50	$15.30
128 Soldier Field Express	$ .50	unchanged

[1] For every $10 purchase, $11 of value is added to the card.

[2] Allows two additional rides within two hours of issue.

[3] The 10% bonus on Reduced Fare Transit Cards will be retained until Reduced Fare Chicago Cards become available.